

## HONORING MARK MORGAN

**HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 19, 2005*

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to honor Mark Morgan of Laurel, Mississippi today. Mark was returning home one evening when he passed a vehicle that had pulled to the side of a bridge. Despite the dark and his own exhaustion, Mark pulled over to be sure the woman who sat in the car alone did not need any assistance. Little did Mark know he had just answered the prayers of a worried family and community.

Louise Martin had left church to drive home; she'd become confused and lost. Eventually her car ran out of gas, leaving her stranded along a rarely traveled stretch of highway. After Mark stopped, he called Mrs. Martin's family and told them he was going to bring her home. Nearly twelve hours after Mrs. Martin left her church, she was reunited with her husband and family.

Mr. Speaker, Mark Morgan is a shining example of the spirit of concern and the willingness to aid others.

## THE 51ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE BROWN VS. BOARD OF EDUCATION DECISION

**HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN**

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 19, 2005*

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, today when civil liberties are under attack, and anti-poverty, anti-immigrant, anti-affirmative action, conservative ideology dictates everything from science to whether social safety nets will continue to exist; we cannot afford to lose the protection of a fair and impartial court.

When minorities and otherwise powerless groups had no other protection of our rights, the courts have been the only refuge and remedy. As we commemorate the 51st Anniversary of the *Brown vs. Board of Education*, we are reminded of the importance of those who are nominated to the judiciary system.

*Brown vs. the Board of Education* was a landmark decision, whose intention is still being fulfilled. One test that we can use as the Senate comes to the brink of disaster, over the final remaining seven judges, is whether based on their past decisions and behavior on the bench, would we have had such a landmark decision such as "Brown" had they been on the bench in 1954. I think we can say not!

Federal judges are immensely powerful—all cases raising constitutional issues, including school prayer, abortion, and freedom of speech are heard before a single federal judge at the trial level and a panel of federal judges on appeal. All judges are expected to follow the law, not their personal convictions, but one can get a sense of how a judge thinks by looking at previous rulings as well as writings and comments.

The nominees at issue are radical conservatives whose views are far to the right of the mainstream on issues such as abortion, the environment, and the worker protection. And their terms are not two, four or six years.

Should they be confirmed, we would be subject to their dangerous judicial activism for life.

That is why the threshold must be high and their judicial history weighed heavily against the values of this country upon which our Constitution was founded.

## SUPPORTING INCREASED FUNDING FOR THE NEA AND NEH

**HON. NITA M. LOWEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 19, 2005*

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this amendment and strongly urge its adoption.

Our contributions to the arts and humanities are the standard by which our history as a society will be measured. A strong public commitment to the arts and humanities, along with a dedication to freedom, is the hallmark of great civilizations. History has shown that religious and political freedoms go hand in hand with greater artistic and literary activity, and that the societies that flourish and have a lasting influence on humanity are those that encourage free expression in all of its forms. This is a lesson that resonates with people of every age, background, and belief, and one we can guarantee our children learn.

By sharing ideas and images from a diverse range of backgrounds and through many different media, the arts and humanities help to create a more informed citizenry. We are better prepared to meet the responsibilities of democracy; to ask ourselves the hard questions; to demand of our leaders the full answers; and to judge fairly the actual and potential endeavors of our country.

Our support for the arts and humanities also has a profound impact on our economy. In my Congressional District, there are over 2000 arts-related businesses, providing more than ten thousand jobs. This creates a substantial economic impact. In Fiscal Year 2000, for example, the arts industry contributed more than \$92 million in revenue to Westchester County alone. Nationwide, the figures are even more impressive. The arts are a \$134 billion industry sustaining nearly 5 million jobs. While the federal government spends just over \$250 million on the NEA and NEH annually—approximately 40 cents per person—it collects over \$10 billion in tax revenue related to the arts industry. NEA and NEH dollars are crucial to the arts community, helping them leverage more state, local, and private funds. Clearly, the numbers show that investment in the arts is important not only to our national identity, but also to our national economy.

Mr. Speaker, we must act decisively to commit ourselves to our national heritage and culture, by voting to increase funding for the NEA and NEH. I urge my colleagues to support creativity and reflection, to support our economy, and to support the continued growth and expression of democracy in its fullest form.

## IN MEMORY OF PAULETTE COPELAND

**HON. GWEN MOORE**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 19, 2005*

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the life of my constituent Ms. Paulette Copeland, an outstanding educator, a committed labor leader, and an exemplary community activist who lost her battle with cancer May 16, at the age of 61. Ms. Copeland made numerous and profound contributions to the lives of Milwaukee residents. Her death is a loss for the entire community.

A native of Milwaukee and graduate of the Milwaukee Public Schools, Ms. Copeland was devoted to public education. The impact of her commitment is apparent in every corner of this city. As an educator in the Milwaukee Public Schools for 30 years, Ms. Copeland taught hundreds of children. She was widely recognized as an advocate for children, and was especially devoted to serving children with special needs. She believed deeply that every child could learn, and strove, every day, to find teaching methods that would speak to the needs of each child she encountered.

Not only a gifted and brilliant teacher, Ms. Copeland was also a noted community leader and civil rights activist. As the first African-American President of the Milwaukee Teachers Education Association (MTEA), she led with a gentle but insistent style. Under her guidance, MTEA's agenda came to reflect more deeply the concerns and needs of the African-American community. As a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Ms. Copeland led an effort to reduce suspensions within MPS by offering cultural sensitivity training to teachers and other staff.

Working with others from around the country, Ms. Copeland participated in the successful struggle to designate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday a national holiday. In Milwaukee, she helped found a writing contest for elementary, middle and high school students, which has become a cornerstone of local King Day celebrations. More recently, she served as chairperson of the Women in the NAACP Committee, reactivating this group even while she battled cancer.

Ms. Copeland was also a devoted wife, mother and sister, and my thoughts and prayers go out to her loving family. We will all miss her wit and wisdom, and her commitment to the Milwaukee's children. Her life and work honor our community.

## RECOGNITION OF THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CITY OF TRENTON, IL

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 19, 2005*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 150th Anniversary of the establishment of the City of Trenton.

This past weekend, the City of Trenton celebrated the establishment of their city. In 1818,